

TELECON

Arthur Burns/Secretary Kissinger

April 18, 1974

5:22 PM

(missed first part)

K: I'll tell you, the problem is, if there is no Syrian disengagement, then the war will start again, then the French and the Soviets will be able to tell the Arabs they told them so all along. The U.S. will be totally discredited, because if we can't -- the issue is whether Israel will withdraw say, 5 to 8 kilometers into the Golan Heights. If we can't get that, then of course how can we claim we can get anything. You see what I mean?

B: Yes.

K: Whether they're willing to give up the town of \_\_\_\_\_. Now, of course, if Israel had any sense, the Syrians have made a proposal which isn't really all that outrageous and if they gave the Syrians -- if I were Prime Minister in Israel I would give the Syrians 2/3 of what they've asked for and that would run the Russians out of there, but that's beyond Israel's capacity, even to imagine. So I'm not arguing on that. But if they could ~~grr~~ grudgingly give 5 to ~~4~~ 8 kilometers, then at least we can prevent an outbreak. If I fail, the only one who's faced them up to now, is I. I mean, it's a personal thing. If I fail, I'm out of the negotiation, if I'm out of the negotiation, they'll be <sup>face</sup> thrown into international forums. Do you believe that this country in the ~~fact~~ <sup>face</sup> of another ~~not~~ energy crisis will mount an airlift? I doubt it. So, it's a very serious matter. Portugal wouldn't give us the Azores again.

B: I'll have a talk with Dinitz.

K: I think basically he agrees with me. In fact I know he agrees with me. Don't give him the feeling I'm unhappy with him or with Golda, it's the political situation. Because I have ~~grr~~ great admiration for him -- really I like him very much.

B: No, I'll be sure of that alright.

K: OK, good. Thank you Arthur.

B: Good luck.

END